

REMARKS

Claims 2-15 and 39-44 are pending. Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 39-44 are added. Claims 16-38 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 17-38 objected to by the Examiner have been corrected to identify them as the withdrawn claims.

Claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been cancelled to expedite prosecution.

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Perkowski.

To more clearly define the claimed invention, independent claim 2 has been amended. Claim 2, as amended, recites a system for processing orders received from a client terminal capable of sending a request providing indication of an item being purchased and indication of a point of sale selected for delivery of the item, together with an identifier of a purchaser. The system is provided in a retail network comprising at least one district network including a district node and multiple regional networks, each having a regional node and multiple points of sale.

The system comprises an order support server causing the client terminal to produce a graphical user interface identifying goods available in a regional network that includes the selected point of sale,

if the item is available in the regional network, the graphical user interface enabling the customer to place an order for delivery of the item within the regional network to the selected point of sale,

if the item is not available in the regional network, the order support server determining a first node outside of the regional network, at which the item is available, and enabling the

customer to place an order for delivery of the item from the first node to the selected point of sale,

the order processing system further comprising a first server associated with the first node, and configured for receiving the request if the item is not available in the regional network, the first server being further configured for arranging a delivery path for delivery of the item from the first node to the selected point of sale.

The reference does not teach or suggests the claimed order support server and the claimed first server.

Further, newly added dependent claims 39-44 recite further aspects of the claimed invention.

In particular, claim 39 specifies that the order support server is responsive to a search of a required item performed using the graphical user interface of the client terminal, by identifying the first node outside of the regional network.

Claim 40 indicates that the first server is responsive to the order from the customer by performing a routing protocol including producing an address field for delivery of the ordered item from a source to a destination via a designated intermediate node, the address field includes a source address and a destination address. Claim 41 further specifies that an intermediate server associated with the intermediate node replaces the destination address assigned to the item with a destination address of a next point in a delivery path of the item.

Claim 42 indicates that the first server is responsive to the order from the customer by performing a routing protocol including a first link for delivery the ordered item from the first node to the district node, and a second link for delivery the ordered item from the district node to the regional network. Claim 43 specifies that the district node provides transfer of the ordered

item together with transfer of goods directed to the regional network for replenishing stocks of regional nodes in the regional network.

Claim 44 recites that the system further comprises a local computer associated with the selected point of sale and a regional computer associated with a regional node. The claim specifies that the local computer provides the customer with information that requires a first bandwidth, and the regional computer provides the customer with information that requires a second bandwidth more narrow than the first bandwidth.

Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the subject matter described above.


It is noted that the claims do not contain recitations with respect to a manner in which the claimed apparatus is intended to be employed. Instead, they recite a specific arrangement of the order processing system and operations performed by elements of the system.

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 2-15 and 39-44 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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